

Message Text

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ACTION PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00 EUR-12

ARA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02

INRE-00 SAM-01 PM-04 AID-05 EB-07 OMB-01 /081 W

----- 104868

O 301400Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO AMEMBASSY MONROVIA IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7707

USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAKAR IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 KINSHASA 3796

FOR THE SECRETARY

FOR S/PRS, USIA FOR IPS/PA

DEPT PASS NCS FOR MR. SCROWCROFT AND WHITE HOUSE FOR MR. NESSEN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A)

SUBJ: PRESIDENT MOBUTU'S PRESS CONFERENCE WITH AMERICAN PRESS,

KINSHASA APRIL 30, 1976

TEXT FOLLOWS:

1. WHAT IS TO PREVENT THE SOVIET UNION AND CUBA FROM REPEATING
ELSEWHERE IN AFRICA THE SAME VICTORY THEY ACCOMPLISHED IN ANGOLA?

A. I BELIEVE THAT THE SOVIET UNION AND CUBA, AS FAR AS I UNDER-
STAND ON THE BASIS OF OUR DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS, NO LONGER HAVE THIS
KIND OF INTENTION. I DO NOT SPEAK IN THEIR NAME BUT I UNDERSTAND
ON THE BASIS OF DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS WE HAVE THAT BEYOND ANGOLA THEY
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DO NOT INTEND TO PURSUE THIS ANY MORE.

1. IN YOUR JUDGEMENT WHAT WAS THE PRIMARY REASON FOR THE FAILURE OF AMERICAN, ZAIRIAN AND OTHER NATIONS' ABILITY TO BLOCK THE MARXIST ADVANCE IN ANGOLA?

A. MY FRIEND, ZAIRE IS A YOUNG COUNTRY IN A STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT WITH LIMITED MEANS, ZAIRE, ON THE OCCASION OF THE LIBERATION OF ANGOLA FROM THE PORTUGUESE OCCUPATION, DID ALL IT COULD TO HELP DRIVE AWAY FROM THIS FRIENDLY TERRITORY THE PORTUGUESE OCCUPANTS. AS FOR THE CUBAN AND SOVIET INTERVENTION THIS WOULD HAVE REQUIRED A MORE ENERGETIC TYPE OF INTERVENTION ON THE PART OF THE UNITED STATES, THE OTHER SUPER POWER. THIS WAS NOT THE CASE BECAUSE OF YOUR CONGRESS. ZAIRE HAS DONE WHAT WE COULD AND IN MY HUMBLE OPINION THE UNITED STATES DID NOT DO ITS DUTY.

1. BY THAT DO YOU MEAN THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD PLAY A MORE DIRECT, ACTIVE ROLE IN AFRICA?

A. IT IS NOT UP TO ME TO SAY, SPEAKING AS A LEADER OF MY COUNTRY, TO DICTATE TO THE UNITED STATES A POLICY IN AFRICA. UP TO NOW THERE HAS BEEN THE FEELING THAT THE UNITED STATES' POSITION WAS NOT CLEAR, BUT SINCE THE LUSAKA SPEECH OF SECRETARY KISSINGER WE NOW SEE CLEARLY THAT THE UNITED STATES IS ON THE SIDE OF THOSE FOR FREEDOM IN AFRICA, AND MORE IMPORTANT IS ON THE SIDE OF THE LIBERATION OF THE BLACK MAN.

Q. ACCORDING TO OUR INFORMATION YOU ASKED THE SECRETARY TO CONSIDERABLY INCREASE US AID TO ZAIRE, PARTICULARLY IN THE MILITARY FIELD. ARE YOU SATISFIED WITH THE SECRETARY'S RESPONSE?

A. I DO NOT BELIEVE WE CAN SPEAK OF AN INCREASE IN AID, THIS AID HAVING EXISTED IN THE PAST. RATHER WE SHOULD SPEAK IN TERMS OF STRENGTHENING THIS ASSISTANCE IN TERMS OF THE PRESENT CONDITIONS IN CENTRAL AFRICA BEING WHAT THEY ARE.

Q. DID MR. KISSINGER UNDERSTAND?

A. HIS REPLY SATISFIES ME.

Q. WHAT IS THE SPECIFIC THREAT FACING ZAIRE FOR WHICH YOU NEED INCREASED MILITARY AID? COULD YOU BE QUITE SPECIFIC ABOUT
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THIS?

A. NOT TO BE COMMONPLACE BUT YOU ARE THE FIRST ONE TO ASK ME QUESTIONS ABOUT ANGOLA. IN ANGOLA YOU HAVE HEAVY TANKS, T-54S AND T-34S. IN ZAIRE YOU HAVE NOTHING. THIS SITUATION PRESUPPOSES ON THE PART OF THE LEADER OF ZAIRE ENOUGH INTELLIGENCE, ENOUGH FORESIGHT, TO TAKE PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES. I AM GIVING YOU THE EXAMPLE OF TANKS, BUT ALSO CONCERNING NAVAL STRENGTH. IF YOU GO ALONG OUR

TERRITORIAL WATERS YOU WILL SEE PRACTICALLY NO NAVY TO SPEAK OF.
IN ANGOLA YOU SEE HUNDEREDS OF NAVAL UNITS. I DO NOT WANT TO IMPLY
THAT WE LIVE IN FEAR OR UNDER THREAT BUT IN ORDER TO LIVE IN
PEACE ONE MUST PREPARE ONESELF.

Q. SOME OF YOUR NEIGHBORS ALSO HAVE AIRCRAFT. DOES THAT MEAN
YOU WOULD LIKE AIRCRAFT, MODERN JETS, FROM THE UNITED STATES?

A. SURELY YOU ARE AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF MY COUNTRY ON THE
STRATEGIC CHECKERBOARD OF AFRICA. WE MUST NOT THINK ONLY IN TERMS
OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF ZAIRE, OF DEVELOPING THE RICHES
OF OUR SOIL AND SUB SOIL. DEVELOPING THESE IS OF NO USE UNLESS
SECURITY IS 100 PERCENT PROTECTED AND GUARENTEED IN OUR COUNTRY
SO THAT IS MY REPLY TO YOUR QUESTION. ALTHOUGH I AM A SOLDIER
MYSELF WE ARE NOT MILITARISTIC IN ZAIRE. WE WANT TO LIVE IN
PEACE ON THE SOIL OF OUR ANCESTORS AND FOR THAT
WE MUST GUARENTEE AND ENSURE OUR SECURITY. LET ME MAKE THINGS VERY
CLEAR AND FOLLOW UP ON MY REPLY. IN MY VERY FIRST SPEECH TO THE NATION

I LAID THE EMPHASIS, NOT ON THE MILITARY FORCES BUT ON THE ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY. THIS LED TO THE HYDRO ELECTRIC COMPLEX
OF INGA, THE FIRST IN THE WORLD IN THIS TYPE OF ACHIEVEMENT,
TO THE LARGE SCALE ELECTRIC POWER OF 1,200 MILES OF DISTANCE FROM
INGA TO SHABA AND TO THE STEEL AND IRON COMPLEX AT MALUKU, BUT
NOW ZAIRE MUST TAKE CARE OF ITS SECURITY AND BOLSTER ITS
SECURITY. OTHERWISE I WOULD APPEAR RIDICULOUS IF I WERE SIMPLY
SPEAKING IN TERMS OF FOOD, IN TERMS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, OF
OUR MINING, WHILE OUR PEOPLE KNOW THAT ALL AROUND ZAIRE THERE ARE
TANKS AND AIRCRAFT. ALL THIS COULD REACH THE PSYCHOLOGY OF OUR
PEOPLE. WHAT THIS MEANS IN CLEAR TERMS IS THAT IT IS
ABSOLUTELY NO USE

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ACTION PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00 EUR-12

ARA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02

INRE-00 SAM-01 PM-04 AID-05 EB-07 OMB-01 /081 W

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O 301400Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO AMEMBASSY MONROVIA IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7708
USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAKAR IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 KINSHASA 3796

FOR THE SECRETARY

FOR S/PRS, USIA FOR IPS/PA

DEPT PASS NCS FOR MR. SCROWCROFT AND WHITE HOUSE FOR MR. NESSEN

BUILDING A TALL BUILDING UNLESS YOU INSTALL A LIGHTNING ROD.

Q. COULD YOU TELL US IN THE WAKE OF ANGOLA WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO
OTHER FORMS OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE IN ZAIRE, NOTABLY THAT OF THE
CHINESE AND NORTH KOREANS?

A. THE MILITARY AID ZAIRE HAS RECEIVED PARTICULARLY FROM DHINA
IS IMPORTANT BUT IS NOT SUFFICIENT.

Q. WITH THE NORTH KOREANS DOES IT CONTINUE?

A. I ANSWERED YOUR QUESTION IN THE TERMS IN WHICH YOU PUT IT
TO ME. AID, ASSISTANCE, CONNOTE AID FREELY GIVEN. EVERYTHING
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THAT WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM CHINA IS FREE. ON THE PART OF THE NORHT
KOREANS WE MAKE PURCHASES. SO SPEAKING ABOUT AID, I ADDRESS MYSELF
ONLY TO THAT WHICH WAS FREE.

Q. COULD YOU CLARIFY THAT FOR US SIR. WE ARE NOT CLEAR WHETHER YOU
ARE NO LONGER RECEIVING MILITARY ANY MILITARY TRAINING,
GUIDANCE, ADVICE, FROM CHINA AND FROM NORTH KOREA. HAS THAT BEEN
SUSPENDED?

A. IT GOES ON AS FAR AS THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA IS
CONCERNED, BUT AS FAR AS NORTH KOREA IS CONCERNED, AFTER ON YEAR
IN COUNTRY, ALL THE NORTH KOREAN TECHNICIANS WENT HOME.

Q. IN REFERENCE TO FUTURE SOVIET AND CUBAN ACTIVITY IN AFRICA,
YOU SAY THAT BEYOND ANGOLA THE RUSSIANS AND CUBANS DO NOT
INTEND TO PURSUE THAT ANY MORE. COULD YOU PROVIDE ME ADDITIONAL
INFORMATION ON THAT, PLEASE?

A. I THINK I SPOKE VERY SPECIFICALLY WHEN I WAS ASKED THAT QUESTION. I ADDED THAT THESE CLARIFICATIONS WERE OBTAINED BY US ON THE BASIS OF THE DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS WE HAVE. IF YOU WANT ME TO BE EVEN MORE SPECIFIC I WOULD SAY THOSE ANSWERS WERE GIVEN TO US BY MOSCOW AND BY HAVANA.

Q. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT?

A. I AM A CHIEF OF STATE. WHEN A SOVEREIGN STATE THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS GIVES ME AN ANSWER TO A QUESTION WHICH CONCERNS ME, I TAKE NOTE OF THE ANSWER. IT IS NOT FOR ME TO SAY WHETHER THIS IS TRUE OR FALSE.

Q. BUT YOU BASE YOUR POLICY ON THESE ANSWERS. YOU ARE BASING YOUR POLICY IN THIS PART OF AFRICA IN THE BELIEF THAT THE SOVIETS DO NOT HAVE INTENTIONS OF FURTHER INTERVENTION. IS THAT RIGHT?

A. I AM NOT THE BOSS OF THE KREMLIN. I CANNOT GIVE YOU ANDY ANSWERS ABOUT THE FOREIGN POLICY OF THE KREMLIN. MY FIRST PREOCCUPATION MILITARILY, POLITICALLY, CULTURALLY, AND IN ANY OTHER WAY IS FOR ZAIRE. THE PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES I TAKE ARE TAKEN FOR ZAIRE, FOR MY OWN COUNTRY. I BELIEVE THAT THH ANSWER IS VERY CLEAR. IN UNCLASSIFIED

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ALL THE DIPLOMATIC REPLIES THAT WE HAVE RECEIVED I THINK THAT I HAVE MADE IT CLEAR IN MY REPLY TO YOU THAT WE ARE TAKING CARE OF BOLSTERING THE SECURITY OF OUR OWN COUNTRY OF ZAIRE. I THINK THAT IS A VERY CLEAR ANSWER. THE REPLIES I GET CANNOT KEEP ME FROM TAKING MEASURES DESIGNED TO ENSURE THE SECURITY OF MY COUNTRY.

Q. YOU SAID THE UNITED STATES DID NOT DO ITS DUTY IN ANGOLA. DO YOU THINK THE SITUATION HAS CHANGED AND THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL DO ITS DUTY IN THE FUTURE IN AFRICA?

A. I SHOULD BE ASKING YOU THAT QUESTION. DR. KISSINGER HAS REPEATED A NUMBER OF TIMES IN THE UNITED STATES THE STATEMENT FROM WHICH WE INFER THAT THE UNITED STATES CAN NO LONGER ACCEPT THE INTERFERENCE OF EXTERNAL POWERS IN AFRICA. WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Q. WHAT DO YOU THINK IT MEANS?

A. SINCE I AM NOT AN AMERICAN I FIND IT DIFFICULT TO ANSWER YOU. BUT I BELIEVE THE UNITED STATES IS A COUNTRY OF HONOR AND THAT ANY COMMITMENT, BE IT EVEN A VERBAL COMMITMENT, CAN BE HONORED. Q. TO CHANGE THE SUBJECT, CAN I ASK YOU IF YOU HAVE MADE PROGRESS IN YOUR TALK WITH DR. KISSINGER CONCERNING THE FLUCTUATION OF RAW MATERIAL PRICES, PARTICULARLY COPPPER AND DO YOU EXPECT PROGRESS IN NAIROBI?

A. WE HAVE SPOKEN OF THIS. OF COUSE IT WOULD SERVE NO USEFUL PURPOSE
IF A MAN LIKE DR. KISSINGER CAME HERE AND ALL WE SPOKE ABOUT WAS
WAR AND MILITARY SUPPLIES. WE, OF COURSE, DISCUSSED ECONOMIC
MATTERS WHICH ARE OF PREVAILING IMPORTANCE IN OUR COUNTRY. IF
I UNDERSTAND CORRECTLY THE REPLIES TO OUR CONCERNS MAY WELL COME
OUT I BELIEVE IN THE NAIROBI SPEECH WHICH WILL BE GIVEN AT
UNCTAD. END OF TEXT.
CUTLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERVENTION, PRESS CONFERENCES, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976KINSHA03796
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760165-0508
From: KINSHASA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976044/aaaaaclo.tel
Line Count: 286
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION PRS
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 SEP 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 SEP 2004 by cookms>; APPROVED <10 NOV 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENT MOBUTU'S PRESS CONFERENCE WITH AMERICAN PRESS, KINSHASA APRIL 30, 1976
TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, US, CG, UR, XA, AO, (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (MOBUTU, SESE SEKO)
To: MONROVIA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006